Over hauling of CSIR

1172. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "CSIR may be overhauled", which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 23rd, June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that proposed overhauling does not prevent the CSIR from functioning the tune with the scientific and technological environment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per CSIR Rules & Regulations, the performance of each laboratory?Institute is to be assessed at least once in every three years by a Performance Appraisal Board (PAB), constituted for the specific purpose. Accordingly, PABs were constituted for the assessment of the CSIR laboratories. All the PABs have met and appraised the performance. Proceedings of the PAB meetings held in respect of each of the labs/ instts. have been finalised. The analysis of the proceedings to arrive at the final conclusions is in process so that the overall strategy for CSIR could be worked out.

Closing of seismic activity observatories at Bhakra Dam

1173. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department is likely to close its seismic activity observatories at Bhakra Dam;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) from where the Dam authorities would get feedback on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEAPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

A permanent seismological observatory of India Meteorological Department (IMD) is functioning at Bhakra and there is not proposal to close this observatory.

(c) On the request of Bhakra Beas Managment Board (BBMB) in 1960, the India Meterological Department established ten Seismological observatories surrounding the Pong and Pandoh dam areas at Shimla, Kullu, Sundernagar, Dalhousie, Pong, Nurpur, Dharamshala, Ghaghar, Mukerian and Jawalamukhi to monitor the microseismic activities around these dams. These observatories were operated with the financial assistance of BBMB. Out of these 6 observatories Dharamshala , Nurpur, Jawlamukhi, Ghaghar, Mukerian and Kullu have since been closed as decided by BBMB. Four observatories, *viz.* Dalhousie, Sundernagar, Shimla and Pong are still operated by IMD with the financial assistance of BBMB. The seismological data from these observatories are processed and provided to BBMB.

Prices of steel products

1174. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian steel industry has raised the prices of its products four times, since April this year;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of various types of steel raised since April by various steel companies and how do they compare with the variation in the international steel prices;

(c) whether this upward revision has helped to improve the financial position of Indian steel companies and their production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE THRIPATHY): (a) and (b) During April-July, 2002 there has been upward revision of rate of rebate adjustment as well as of base price. The available details for major producers are as below: